

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council - Commissioner's Court Meeting	Item ID	34766	Agenda Number	143.
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Meeting Date:	9/25/2014	Department:	Public Works
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## Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance adopting the Urban Trails Master Plan.

## Amount and Source of Funding

N/A

## Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	April 24, 2008, Trails Master Plan Initiated by City Council (Resolution No. 2008424-064) and June 11, 2009, The City of Austin Bicycle Plan Update (Ordinance No. 20090611-075)
For More Information:	Nadia Barrera, 512-974-7142
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by: Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee (Planning Commission) on March 10, 2014; Pedestrian Advisory Council on April 7, 2014; Urban Transportation Commission on April 8, 2014; Parks and Recreation Board on May 27, 2014; Environmental Board on June 4, 2014; Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities on June 9, 2014; Bicycle Advisory Council on June 17, 2014; and Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee (Planning Commission) on June 17, 2014.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

## Additional Backup Information

This plan works to implement elements of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan by creating a connected and protected active transportation network that will provide transportation options for the citizens and visitors of the City of Austin.

An Urban Trail is a non-motorized, multi-use pathway designed for bicyclists, walkers, and those with disabilities for both transportation and recreation purposes.

The Urban Trail Master Plan Goals are to:

1. Work interdepartmentally to design and construct a comprehensive trail system with easy access for both transportation and recreation users.
2. Link all urban trails to the on-street bicycle and sidewalk network.
3. Ensure that all urban trails are adequately sized to accommodate both recreation and transportation uses.
4. Incorporate trail amenities and features that create unique greenways and reflect the City around them.
5. Provide adequate resources to maintain and operate urban trails in Austin.
6. Ensure that all urban trails are context-sensitive and environmentally sustainable.

Other elements of the Urban Trails Master Plan include:

- **Public Input Opportunities:** The Urban Trails Program recognizes that quality projects occur when stakeholders have ample opportunities to weigh in on the development and design of trails. Multiple public input sessions have been included in the trail design and development process to allow for these opportunities. If Urban Trail design does not meet minimum City of Austin standards for environmental protection, appropriate boards and commissions will be briefed for further discussion on design.
- **Integrating Trails with Nature:** The Urban Trail Design Guidelines build on the recent Watershed Protection Ordinance, Heritage and Protected Tree Ordinance and protection of wildlife as identified during the UTMP planning process. The Guidelines address standard and varying widths for Urban Trails trails, overhead clearance, surface quality and lighting concerns as well as protection for trees, wildlife, water quality and water quantity.
- **Implementation and Funding:** The plan identifies 47 miles of “Tier I” Urban Trails to be targeted for construction within the next 15-20 years. Additional “Tier II” Urban Trails are identified. The feasibility of Tier II trails will be triggered upon change in development, planning or land use.